for Teacher Education (NCTE) has received 207 applications alongwith "No Objection Certificate" from Government of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 142 institutions have been granted recognition by the Southern regional Committee of NCTE and rest of the 65 institutions have not been found to fulfil the necessary requirements and have been issued notices prior to refusal of recognition.

National Action Plan for Empowerment of Women

†5202. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national action plan for empowerment of the women;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a National Plan of Action is under preparation to implement the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women.

Indian Schools in Gulf Countries

5203. SHRI A.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many Indian schools in gulf countries recognized/ controlled by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details including the administrative/academic control as on today, category-wise;

(c) whether the competent authority is aware of any incidents related to malfunctioning of the above schools during the last three years;

(d) if so, year-wise and category-wise details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes Sir, there are 82 schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and two schools affiliated to the Council for Indian Schools Certificate Examination (CISCE) in the gulf countries.

(b) The administrative control of the schools is under their respective managements but the academic control is under their respective Boards.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There is no specific case of malfunctioning of any schools reported to their Board.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Promotion in Central Hindi Directorate

5204. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers belonging to SC are being denied the benefits of due promotion to the post of Assistant Director under the Internal Promotion Scheme for a considerable period in Central Hindi Directorate;

(b) if so, the justification for such discrimination and the details of number of officers affected as a result thereof; and

(c) by when such officers would be given their due promotion and reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir. At present, out of four alive posts in the grade of Assistant Director in the Central Hindi Directorate (CHD), two posts are occupied by SC category officers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mapping of Living Resources

5205. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Ocean Development was created *inter alia* to map living resources, prepare an inventory of commercially exploitable fauna and map and assess the availability of mineral resources from the deep sea;

(b) if so, the achievement made so far in these areas: and

(c) the plans set out for 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Some of the achievements so far:

Assessment of Demersal fishery resources has been carried in the 200 to 600m depth area in the Indian EEZ. The catch per unit efforts (CPUE) ranges from 14 to 143 kg/hr.

The commercially important fauna available are Shrimp, Ribbon fish, Lizzard fish. Thread fin bream. Bull's eye and Indian ruff.